

*The Jesus Way: Building a Life of Christlike Relationships (2)*  
**The Church Where Everyone Belongs**  
**Romans 12:9–21**

**Introduction:** The church and Christian community flourishes when believers practice genuine love, honor, patience, and forgiveness toward one another. In this rich passage the Apostle Paul gives rapid-fire exhortations or commitments describing what Christlike community looks like.

*MacArthur calls it: "a comprehensive and mandatory list of traits that characterize the spirit-filled life."*

**I. Brotherly love without hypocrisy – Love sincerely** (Romans 12:9–10a, 13, 15) This is the first commitment.

- A. "Let love be genuine" (v.9) Greek: *anupokritos* – without play-acting or hypocrisy (1 Jn. 4:20)
- B. "Love one another with brotherly affection" (v.10) *Philadelphia* – familial devotion. (Jn. 13:35; 1 Jn. 3:18)
1. Real love gives: "Contribute to the needs of the saints" (v.13)
  2. Real love welcomes: "Seek to show hospitality" (v.13)
  3. Real love empathizes: "Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep" (v.15)

Is my love genuine, or just polite pretense? Who can I love tangibly this week?

**II. Building up one another in honor – Outdo each other in showing respect** (Romans 12:10b, 16) This is the second commitment.

- A. "Outdo one another in showing honor" (v.10) Promote others over self (Js. 3:9)
- B. "Live in harmony with one another... associate with the lowly" (v.16) Pride kills community; humility builds it (Phil. 2:3-4)
- C. Start by honoring others with your words, actions, and attention (Heb.3:13)

Who can I appreciate, affirm, or honor this week?

**III. Bearing with one another in patience – Stay patient and prayerful** (Romans 12:12, 14, 15, 18) This is the third commitment.

- A. "Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer" (v.12)
- B. "Bless those who persecute you" (v.14)  
(Col. 3:13; Eph. 4:2; Prov. 17:17; Lk. 2:19; Rom. 14:1)

**Rogers:** "Something is wrong with you if get along with everybody! ...Even Jesus the prince of peace had enemies who hated Him without cause.

- C. "If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all" (v.18) (1 Cor. 13:4-5; Mt. 18:15; (Early church Ac. 6 &15); Gal. 6:9; Js. 5:11)

Who is God asking me to bear with or pray for instead of avoiding?

**IV. Blessing others with forgiveness – Overcome evil with good**  
(Romans 12:17–21) This is the fourth commitment.

- A. "Repay no one evil for evil" (v.17) (Rom. 5:10; Ac. 7:60; Eph. 4:32)
- B. "Never avenge yourselves... Vengeance is Mine, says the Lord" (v.19)

**Dr. David Jeremiah** warns, "When we attempt to take vengeance on another person, we're usurping the role of God. God says, 'Vengeance is Mine,' and we have no right or authority to take on a role that He reserves for Himself."

- C. "If your enemy is hungry, feed him..." (v.20)

**Barclay:** "Vengeance may break his spirit; but kindness will break his heart..."

- D. "Overcome evil with good" (v.21)  
(Mt. 5:7; 39-41)

Is there someone I need to forgive? How can I bless them this week?

**Conclusion:** Let's commit to building a church community marked by: Sincere Love, Shared Honor, Steady Patience, Supernatural Forgiveness  
Pray for God's Spirit to empower us to walk the Jesus Way.

**This Week's Challenge:** Identify one strained relationship. Take one practical step toward peace, honor, or kindness.